



## INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 91  
Trenton, MI 48183

Mr. George Mans, Chairperson (734.789.2323)  
Ms. Anita Twardesky, Vice-Chairperson (734.626.5465)  
Ms. Mary Bohling, Board Member (313.833.3275)

E-Mail: [iwr\\_alliance@yahoo.com](mailto:iwr_alliance@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver/index.html](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver/index.html)

There are over 550 National Wildlife Refuges nation-wide and we have, in our backyard, the only international one. The International Wildlife Refuge Alliance (IWRA) helps protect wildlife and supports wildlife-dependent recreational uses like hunting, fishing, photography, wildlife observation, interpretation, and environmental education. IWRA's mission is:

***support the first International Wildlife Refuge in North America by working through partnerships to protect, conserve and manage the refuge's wildlife and habitats, and to create exceptional conservation, recreational and educational experiences to develop the next generation of conservation stewards.***

IWRA is an alliance of organizations that builds the capacity of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to deliver its mission for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. IWRA is an independent, 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. It works collaboratively to promote community outreach, organize educational and interpretive programs, undertake habitat rehabilitation and restoration, coordinate volunteer staff, organize special events, and help with fund-raising. It receives priority for certain grant programs, receives special training, gets access to publications and listserves, receives support for a website, benefits from an awards and special recognition program, and participates in an annual, national, Friends Conference that attracts over 500 people from refuges throughout the United States.

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is rapidly acquiring a national reputation for effective public-private partnerships and IWRA only enhances that reputation for partnerships. Current priorities include:

- creating a driving tour for birding along the Detroit River and Western Lake Erie,
- continuing to build greenways from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie,
- promoting natural resource and environmental education through programming,
- working with Wayne County to complete daylighting of Monguagon Creek at the Refuge Gateway and restoring coastal wetlands at the Refuge Gateway,
- building trails at Humbug Marsh Unit;
- rehabilitating and conserving habitats throughout the refuge,
- enhancing hunting and fishing opportunities in Wayne and Monroe Counties, and
- enhancing quality of life through conservation efforts.